

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 27

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to recognize Daphyne Long Smith on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry, providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Daphyne Long Smith is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a highly-respected educator who has been a positive influence on so many young lives, Dr. Smith will be taking a much-deserved retirement this year after more than fifteen years of service as the principal of Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith was born on October 15, 1953, in Birmingham, Alabama, to Roosevelt and Rosie Lee Long. Born into a family of devout Christians, she attended Ninevah Baptist Church in her youth; and

WHEREAS, her parents and church instilled in her the value of education, a value which greatly influenced her as she attended Springdale High School in Jefferson County and moved on to college at Tennessee State University, from which she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in speech pathology and audiology in 1975; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving her undergraduate degree, Dr. Smith enrolled at the University of Memphis, from which she received her Master of Arts degree in speech pathology and audiology in 1978; and

WHEREAS, while enrolled in her master's program, she was hired by the Memphis City Schools as a speech therapist. During her time at the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, she advanced from speech therapist to diagnostician and curriculum developer; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith began working on her doctoral degree at the University of Memphis in 1981. After being influenced by her work for the Memphis City Schools, she

changed the focus of her degree from speech pathology and audiology to curriculum and instruction. In 1985, she earned her Doctor of Education degree in curriculum and instruction, with a concentration in instructional design and technology; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Dr. Smith again enrolled at the University of Memphis to earn her certification in educational administration and supervision. At that time she was also hired as the assistant principal at Graves Elementary School, a position she served for three years before being hired in 1995 as the principal at Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable individual has had many grand achievements throughout her career as an educator. In 1990, she was named Teacher of the Year for the Division of Special Education and received the designation of Career Ladder III Teacher by the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure as principal at Raleigh-Bartlett Meadows Elementary, Dr. Smith helped the school advance technologically, adding a computer lab and laptops to the school and putting multiple computers in each classroom;

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith also improved the school for students and parents alike through several accomplishments: she created a school-age child care program for families who needed extended child care, helped the elementary become one of the first schools in Memphis City Schools to receive the Reading Excellence Grant, and helped add several types of playground equipment to the campus, furthering healthy physical activity for students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith is an active and important part of her community and her profession, serving as an adjunct professor of education at Union University, Germantown Campus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to her community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, she has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Daphyne Long Smith our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.